

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1027**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Blumenfield**

February 27, 2009

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An act to add Section 25785 to the Public Resources Code, relating to energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1027, as introduced, Blumenfield. Energy: solar energy.

Existing law establishes the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission in the Natural Resources Agency. Existing law requires the commission, by January 1, 2008, to establish eligibility criteria for solar energy systems receiving ratepayer funded incentives, as specified.

This bill would require the commission to administer a solar schools and nonprofits program to encourage schools, hospitals, and specified nonprofit public benefit corporations to install solar energy systems. The bill would require the program to seek to encourage the greatest number of installations while effectively generating electricity through renewable energy systems. As part of that program, the bill would require the commission to administer a grant and revolving loan program for the installation of solar energy systems by those entities. The bill would state the Legislature's intent that, upon appropriation, money from a specified settlement and delegated for energy efficiency retrofitting projects by that settlement be used for the program, consistent with the settlement.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3     (a) Solar-generated electricity is uniquely suited to California's  
4 needs because it produces electricity when the state most needs it,  
5 during the peak demand hours in summer afternoons when the sun  
6 is brightest and air conditioners are running at capacity.

7     (b) Procuring solar electric generation capacity to meet peak  
8 electricity demand increases system reliability and decreases the  
9 state's dependence on unstable fossil fuel supplies.

10    (c) Increasing the state's solar electricity generation market will  
11 bring additional manufacturing, installation, and sales jobs to the  
12 state at a higher rate than most conventional energy production  
13 sources.

14    (d) Solar energy systems provide substantial energy reliability  
15 and pollution reduction benefits, diversify the state's energy supply,  
16 and thereby reduce the state's dependence on imported fossil fuels.

17    (e) There are more than 175 nonprofit hospitals and thousands  
18 of tax exempt organizations established for public benefit in the  
19 state that are potential contributors in meeting the goals of the solar  
20 energy initiative.

21    SEC. 2. Section 25785 is added to the Public Resources Code,  
22 to read:

23    25785. (a) In order to further the state goal of encouraging the  
24 installation of 3,000 megawatts of photovoltaic solar energy in the  
25 state within 10 years, the commission shall administer a solar  
26 schools and nonprofits program to encourage schools, hospitals,  
27 and other nonprofit public benefit corporations qualified under  
28 Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code and  
29 operating primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable,  
30 or other similar purposes in the public interest to install solar  
31 energy systems. The program shall seek to encourage the greatest  
32 number of installations while effectively generating electricity  
33 through renewable energy systems.

34    (b) As part of the program administered pursuant to subdivision  
35 (a), the commission shall administer a grant and revolving loan  
36 program for the installation of solar energy systems by schools,  
37 hospitals, and nonprofit public benefit corporations described in  
38 subdivision (a).

1 (c) The Legislature intends that, upon appropriation, money  
2 from the settlement between the Attorney General and the Williams  
3 Energy Corporation on November 11, 2002, and delegated for  
4 energy efficiency retrofitting projects by that settlement, be used  
5 for the program established by this section, consistent with the  
6 requirements of that settlement.

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